

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 2, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1-20 were pending and rejected claims 1-20. Claims 1, 6-9, 14-16 and 18 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-20 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections are traversed below.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

The Applicants respectfully request that the Attorney Docket No. be changed to **0600-1190** in the instant Application.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stylianou, *A system for voice conversion based on probabilistic classification and a harmonic plus noise model*, IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Stylianou discusses a mapping function to convert the voice of a first speaker to the voice of a second speaker.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Office asserts that Stylianou, §§ I, II and IV disclose "analysis of the voice samples grouped together in frames in order to obtain, for each

sample frame, *information relating to the spectral envelope and information relating to the fundamental frequency,*" (Emphasis added) as in amended claim 1. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 6, lines 30-32 of the Specification. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment of claim 1.

Nowhere in the cited reference is it discussed that analysis of voice samples grouped together in order to obtain information relating to the spectral envelope and fundamental frequency. The Applicants submit, the attached document dealing with spectral envelopes. At the time of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art considered the spectral envelope independent from the fundamental frequency. Therefore, at the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have considered determining a fundamental frequency as a function of the spectral envelope. Thus, the inventors state that the teaching of Stylianou and the prior art teach away from determining the prediction function for predicting the fundamental frequency according to the spectral envelope as in the claims.

Further, for the same reasons Stylianou fails to disclose "determination of a model representing the common characteristics of the spectral envelope and fundamental frequency of all said voice samples; and ... determining a prediction function for predicting the fundamental frequency

according exclusively to said information relating to the spectral envelope on the basis of said model and voice samples," (Emphasis added) as in amended claim 1.

Claims 9 and 15 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Further, claims 9 and 15 predict a fundamental frequency of the voice signal to be converted by applying a fundamental frequency prediction function to the transformed spectral envelope characteristic. However, Stylianou calculates the fundamental frequency of the voice source signals and transforms this fundamental frequency.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claims 1, 9 and 15 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Stylianou.

For the reasons discusses above, Stylianou fails to disclose "determination of a prediction function is implemented on the basis of an estimator of the implementation of the fundamental frequency, knowing the spectral information of the samples," as in claim 7.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. It is also submitted that claims 1-20 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the

prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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